(viii) Similarly, FMC has on, 27.2.2007, directed all the three National Exchanges that no new futures contracts in wheat and rice shall be launched.

(ix) Reducing petrol and diesel prices by Rs 5 and Rs 2 a litre respectively, effective midnight of 5.12.08. However, LPG and diesel prices have not been changed.

Increase in ration quota for UP and Bihar

†2061. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received requests from the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for effecting an increase in the quota of items being provided in ration under the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details of such items provided during the last three years along with the allocated quota thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government on the demands of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Item wise details of the requests received from the States of Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar and the action taken by Government on the demands of these States are as under:

Foodgrains: Requests have been received from the State Government(s) of UP and Bihar for increasing allocation under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Keeping in view the requests received from the State Government(s), the Central Government has made additional wheat allocation of 60,000 tons and 103,000 tons at APL rate for the State of UP and Bihar, respectively during current year. Also, 80,000 tons of wheat each for UP and Bihar have been released under Open Market Sale Scheme for sale to retail/bulk consumers during September to December, 2008.

Kerosene: Requests were received from the Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the year 2007 for increasing the Kerosene quota. However, it could not be increased.

However, there has been no reduction in the PDS SKO to States/UTs after the financial year 2004-05. For the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for first three quarters of 2008-09 have also been maintained at the same level.

Sugar: No request has been received from the Government of UP and Bihar for increasing levy sugar quota of these States in the recent past.

Details of the quantum of allocation of rice, wheat, kerosene and Sugar provided by the Central Government for the PDS to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during last three years are as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Uttar Pradesh:

(In thousand tons)

Year	Commodity	Quantity
2005-06	Rice	5,593.124
	Wheat	5,386.128
	Kerosene	1241.772
	Sugar	386.30
2006-07	Rice	6,248.499
	Wheat	2,080.878
	Kerosene	1241.772
	Sugar	365.48
2007-08	Rice	3,020.884
	Wheat	1,529.806
	Kerosene	1241.772
	Sugar	412.02

Bihar:

(In thousand tons)

Year	Commodity	Quantity
2005-06	Rice	2,267.745
	Wheat	2,662.959
	Kerosene	647.430
	Sugar	7.48
2006-07	Rice	2,856,247
	Wheat	1,132.097
	Kerosene	647.430
	Sugar	77.54
2007-08	Rice	1,886.328
	Wheat	881.703
	Kerosene	647.430
	Sugar	84.6

Production and procurement of foodgrains in Punjab

2062.SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the average production of foodgrains in Punjab in the last three years, both Rabi and Kharif crops;

(b) how much of this production was procured by Food Corporation of India; and